

Application No. 10/500,423
Amendment Dated October 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action Dated April 19, 2004

Remarks

Claims 1-45 are pending.

Claims 1-16 and 18-45 stand rejected

Claim 17 is objected to.

Claims 1, 7, 15, 18 and 35 have been amended.

Claims 13, 14, 16 and 17 have been cancelled.

Claims 1-12, 15 and 18-45 are submitted herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

In paragraph two of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 7, 8, 10, 12, 29, 30 and 35-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rondeau (U.S. Patent No. 5,850,433). In paragraph three of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rondeau in view of Hefffield (U.S. Patent No. 6,009,323). In paragraph four of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 2, 5, 13 and 18-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rondeau and Hefffield, further in view of Borland (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,943). In paragraph five of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 14-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rondeau, Hefffield and Borland, further in view of Wunsch (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,381). Finally, in paragraph six of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 9, 11, 43 and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rondeau and Hefffield, further in view of Chien (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0027573). The Examiner in the subsequent section of the Office

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Action indicates that the subject matter of claim 17 would be allowable if re-written in independent form.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contentions but submit the following remarks in response.

Although the Applicants disagree with the Examiner's contentions regarding the substantive rejections to the claims, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended the allowable subject matter from claim 17 into independent claims 1, 7 and 35. In view of this, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claims 1, 7 and 35 be withdrawn. Furthermore, as dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, 15, 18-24 and 26-45, depend from claims 1, 7 and 35 these claims should be allowed for the same reason. Applicants reserve the right to continue prosecution of the un-amended claims in timely filed continuation application filed at any time prior to the issue of this present application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submits that pending claims 1-12, 15 and 18-45 are in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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